

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00237 220508Z  
ACTION EA-12

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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
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AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0237

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV PEPR EAID VM US  
SUBJECT: U.S. HISTORIAN VISITS THE SRV

SUMMARY: VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DISCUSSED  
WITH AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HISTORIAN THE USG EXPULSION  
OF SRV UN AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI AND PROSPECTS FOR  
NORMALIZATION OF US/SRV RELATIONS. THE VIETNAMESE TOLD  
THE HISTORIAN THAT THEY HOPED US BUSINESSMEN WOULD  
PRESSURE THE US TO SPEED UP NORMALIZATION NEGOTIATIONS.  
THE SOVIETS WILL REPORTEDLY SEND 2000 TECHNICIANS TO  
CONSTRUCT AN ELECTRIC POWER PLANT AT HOA BINH. PRO-  
REGIME HO CHI MINH CITY RESIDENTS TOLD THE HISTORIAN  
THAT THEY HADD DIFFICULTIES WINNING THE TRUST OF NORTHERN  
OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM(SRV) RECENTLY  
INVITED AN AMERICAN CITIZEN HISTORIAN WHO NOW TEACHES  
AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY TO THE SRV SO  
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00237 220508Z

THAT HE COULD CONDUCT RESEARCH IN THE SRV NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES AND DISCUSS THE MANUSCRIPT OF A BOOK ON MODERN  
VIETNAMESE HISTORY THAT HE IS WRITING. THE HISTORIAN  
TOLD AN EMBOFF FEBRUARY 18 AFTER HIS TWO WEEK STAY IN  
THE SRV THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD ACCORDED HIM FREE  
ACCESS TO THEIR ARCHIVES AND HAD DEBATED, BUT DID NOT  
CENSOR, POINTS HE HAD MADE IN HIS MANUSCRIPT.

2. THE HISTORIAN SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THE US WAS DELIBERATELY HARASSING THE SRV BY EXPELLING SRV UN AMBASSADOR DINH BA THI. HE SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS SAW TWO FACTIONS WITHIN THE US GOVERNMENT; ONE FACTION WAS SUPPORTING THE POLICY OF NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH THE SRV WHILE THE OTHER WAS WORKING TO DISCREDIT THE SRV. THE SOURCE ADDED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HE SPOKE TO HAD BEEN GLOOMY ABOUT EARLY NORMALIZATION OF SRV/US RELATIONS AND THAT THEY BELIEVED THAT THE ANTI-VIETNAMESE FACTION WITHIN THE USG HAD CLEARLY WON THE ROUND BY EXPELLING THI.

3. THE HISTORIAN SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE SPOKE HAD SAID THAT THEY HOPED THAT PRIVATE US BUSINESSMEN WOULD EXERT PRESSURE ON THE USG TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH THE SRV.

4. THE HISTORIAN SAID THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD CRITICIZED THE SOVIETS TO HIM. NONETHELESS, THE SOURCE SAID THAT HE HAD LEARNED OF A PROJECT WHERE THE SRV WOULD MOVE ALL OF THE VIETNAMESE INHABITANTS OUT OF THE TOWN OF HOA BINH (LOCATED SOUTHWEST OF HANOI) AND REPORTEDLY REPLACE THEM WITH 2000 SOVIET TECHNICIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THESE SOVIETS WOULD REPORTEDLY CONSTRUCT AN ELECTRIC POWER PLANT ON THE BLACK RIVER.  
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PAGE 03 VIENTI 00237 220508Z

5. THE HISTORIAN SAID THAT HE HAD MADE A TRIP TO HO CHI MINH CITY WHERE HE HAD MET WITH THREE VIETNAMESE FRIENDS WHOM HE HAD KNOWN WHEN THEY WERE STUDENT ACTIVISTS IN SAIGON IN 1967. THE FORMER STUDENT ACTIVISTS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES THAT HAD COME FROM HANOI TO ADMINISTER HO CHI MINH CITY DID NOT TAP THE POOL OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE CITY'S AFFAIRS THAT WAS EKAGNATING IN YOUNG LOYAL SOUTHERNERS LIKE THEMSELVES. THEY REPORTEDLY TOLD THE HISTORIAN THAT THEY BELIEVED THAT THE NORTHERNERS WOULD NEVER COMPLETELY TRUST THE PRESENT GENERATION OF SOUTHERNERS. TWO OF THE FORMER ACTIVISTS WERE NOW JOURNALISTS WORKING FOR CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS AND THE THIRDS WAS A YOUTH ORGANIZER.  
ROBERTS

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## Message Attributes

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